

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in the application. The listing of claims below shows revisions with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of incrementally refining a query queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission of the query, the method comprising:

defining one or more a query related character pattern[[s]] that does not include [[an]] the explicit indicator of query submission of the query but that does include:

a series of characters followed by a space character,

one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay,

one or more characters followed by a deleted character,

a predefined number of characters, and

predefined words

~~, wherein at least one of the one or more query related character patterns is a string of characters followed by a predetermined time delay before additional characters are entered;~~

~~detecting monitoring entry, by a user, of query defining characters that match the by a user to detect entry of a defined query related character pattern, wherein the query is comprised of the query defining characters;~~

~~substantially simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and an updated list of one or more suggested~~

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query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the updated list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the updated list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym; and

wherein the method is performed by a computer each time a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission,

the one or more suggested query refinement options including a broadening suggestion,

at least one of the one or more suggested query refinement options (a) beginning with a character pattern other than the query related character pattern, and (b) replace the query related character pattern when selected by the user; and

providing the user with an updated query result each time a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query refinement options based on a profile of the user history of results previously selected by the one or more users.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a profile of the user history of results previously selected by the one or more users.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~providing, in response to the simultaneously providing, a visual indicator to the user when an updated query result list is provided to the user.~~
6. (Canceled)
- 7-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~modifying, based on providing a user input, that allows the user to adjust the query related character pattern[[s]].~~
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~changing the defined query related character pattern[[s]] in response to a change in a connection speed at a client-server connection used to provide the user with updated query results, wherein the query related character patterns are defined to occur more frequently as the~~

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~~connection speed increases.~~

12. **(Currently Amended)** Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform for performing the method of claim 1.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method of incrementally refining queries ~~and updating query results~~ without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of ~~query submission of the query, the method~~ comprising:

~~providing a user with one or more query refinement options as the user enters query defining characters;~~

~~detecting entry, by a user, of a query defining word that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query by the user without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission; [[and]]~~

~~simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining word; and~~

~~wherein the method is performed by a computer each time entry of a query defining word is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission,~~

~~wherein the query defining word includes a string of characters followed by a predetermined time delay before additional characters are entered by the user.~~

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14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising ~~tracking queries entered by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query refinement options based on a profile of the user history of queries previously entered by the one or more users.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising ~~tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a profile of the user history of results previously selected by the one or more users.~~

17. (Canceled)

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform for performing the method of claim 13.

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21. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally refining a query queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission of the query, the method comprising:

~~providing a user with replacement alternatives as the user enters query defining characters;~~

~~detecting entry, by a user, of a completed query defining word by the user, the detecting based on a predetermined time delay following the query defining characters before additional characters are entered by the user;~~

~~simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both a query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the completed query defining word each time a query defining word is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission;~~

~~providing the user with query refinement options related to the query defining word without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the query refinement options include a broadening suggestion, wherein at least one of the query refinement options does not begin with the query defining word;~~

~~receiving a selection, from determining the user, of one of the one or more selected a provided query refinement options;~~

~~providing the user, in response to the receiving a selection, with an updated query result list, wherein the updated query result list corresponds to the one of the one or more query refinement options; and~~

~~wherein the method is performed by a computer responsive to the determining the user selected a provided query refinement option; and~~

~~providing a visual indicator to the user each time the updated query result list is provided to the user.~~

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform for performing the method of claim 21.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer system including a display, a user input facility, and an application for presenting a user interface on the display, a user interface that updates query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission comprising:~~

an input device configured to receive, from a user, query defining characters that do not include an explicit indicator of submission of a query, wherein the query is comprised of the query defining characters;

a display configured to simultaneously present to the user, in response to the received query defining characters, both a query result list and a list of query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of query refinement options correspond to the received query defining characters

~~a query entry text box for entering query defining characters;~~
~~a query refinement option list including at least one user selectable query refinement option that is incrementally updated as a query is entered into the query entry text box without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the incremental updating of the query refinement option list is based on a predetermined time delay following the entry of query defining characters~~

~~before additional characters are entered by the user, wherein the user selectable query refinement option includes a broadening suggestion, and wherein the at least one query refinement option begins with characters other than the query defining characters;~~

~~a query result list that is incrementally updated as a query is entered into the query entry text box without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission; and~~

~~a visual indicator that indicates when the query result list is updated.~~

26. (Canceled)

27-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) One or more physical computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of incrementally refining a query without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of submission of the query, the method comprising:

defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include:

- a series of characters followed by a space character,
- one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay,
- one or more characters followed by a deleted character,
- a predefined number of characters, and
- predefined words;

detecting entry, by a user, of query defining characters that match the defined query related character pattern, wherein the query is comprised of the query defining characters;

simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

42. (New) The one or more physical computer-readable media of claim 41, the method further comprising adjusting the query refinement options based on a profile of the user.

43. (New) The one or more physical computer-readable media of claim 41, the method further comprising adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a profile of the user.

44. (New) The one or more physical computer-readable media of claim 41, the method further comprising providing, in response to the simultaneously providing, a visual indicator to the user.

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45. (New) The one or more physical computer-readable media of claim 41, the method further comprising modifying, based on user input, the query related character pattern.

46. (New) The one or more physical computer-readable media of claim 41, the method further comprising changing the defined query related character pattern in response to a change in a connection speed.

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